

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
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DRAFTED BY NEA/PAB:ARAPHEL:DE
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-----078551 221546Z /75
R 221517Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 129398

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, IR, PK

SUBJECT: IRAN-PAKISTAN RELATIONS

1. MAY 19 WASHINGTON POST CARRIES JONATHAN RANDAL ARTICLE
DATELINED TEHRAN THAT IRAN HAS TOLD PAKISTAN FURTHER ECONO-
MIC AID DEPENDS ON SPARING BHUTTO'S LIFE. STORY ADDS THAT
GOI BELIEVES THAT IF BHUTTO IS EXECUTED, PAKISTAN "COULD
BE RIPE FOR SOVIET-SPONSORED DESTABILIZATION". QUOTING
"INFORMED GOVERNMENT SOURCES" RANDAL ADDS THAT IRAN WAS
READY TO USE "ANY MEANS" TO STOP AFGHAN TROUBLEMAKING IN
THE AREA, AND THAT SHAH HAS SAID HE WOULD NOT TOLERATE DIS-
INTEGRATION OF PAKISTAN. REMAINDER OF STORY ECHOES
FAMILIAR IRANIAN THEME OF SOVIET PLANS TO ENCIRCLE IRAN AND
ENDANGER OIL SUPPLIES FROM THE GULF.

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2. DURING CALL MAY 19 BY IRANIAN EMBASSY POLITICAL
COUNSELOR HOMAYUN, PAB OFFICERS ASKED ABOUT ARTICLE AND
IRANIAN ATTITUDE TOWARD BHUTTO'S FATE. HOMAYUN SAID IRAN
HAD NOT THREATENED TO CUT OFF AID IF BHUTTO WERE EXECUTED,
"FOR WE WOULD NOT DO THAT TO OUR FRIENDS". HOWEVER, GOI
HAS TOLD PAKISTAN THAT IF BHUTTO SENTENCE CARRIED OUT, IT

WOULD BE "A NEW AND VERY DANGEROUS SITUATION". HOMAYUN SAID IRANIAN AMBASSADOR IN ISLAMABAD HAS TOLD GOP THAT IRAN FEELS VERY STRONGLY THAT BHUTTO'S LIFE SHOULD BE SPARED FOR

HIS DEATH WOULD CAUSE CONSIDERABLE INTERNAL PROBLEMS FOR PAKISTAN, SOMETHING GOI DOES NOT WANT TO SEE.

4. COMMENT - HOMAYUN WAS CAREFUL NOT TO SAY IRAN HAS THREATENED PAKISTAN WITH CESSATION OF AID. IT WAS CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT SHAH WOULD LOOK VERY UNKINDLY ON BHUTTO EXECUTION AND THAT GOI BELIEVES RECENT AFGHAN EVENTS ADD TO ARGUMENTS IN FAVOR OF SPARING HIS LIFE FOR, IN IRANIAN VIEW, HIS DEATH WOULD ONLY SERVE TO FURTHER DESTABILIZE AN ALREADY THREATENED NATION. VANCE

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